

To:  
Federally Qualified  
Health Centers  
HealthCheck  
Providers  
Home Health  
Agencies  
Nurse Midwives  
Nurse  
Practitioners  
Nursing Homes  
Pharmacies  
Physician  
Assistants  
Physician Clinics  
Physicians  
Rural Health  
Clinics  
HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Department of Health and Family Services Issues Emergency Order Regarding Influenza Vaccine for the 2004-2005 Season

The Department of Health and Family Services' (DHFS') Secretary has issued an emergency order, effective immediately, that limits administration of the influenza vaccine to persons who meet certain high-risk criteria. The order must be prominently posted at all locations where the influenza vaccine is administered. The order and criteria for who may be vaccinated can be found on the DHFS Web site at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/influenza/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/influenza/).

This *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* serves as official notice of the emergency order. Medicaid providers are required by law to administer the influenza vaccine as outlined in this *Update*. Failure to comply will result in immediate enforcement of the law, including court proceedings.

It is the DHFS' expectation that all Medicaid providers will immediately comply with this order and the guidelines it contains.

### **Influenza Vaccine Limited to Certain Groups**

The administration of the influenza vaccine is limited to persons who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- All children aged 6 through 23 months.
- Adults aged 65 years or over.
- Persons aged 2 through 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season.
- Residents of nursing homes and long term care facilities.
- Children aged 6 months through 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Healthcare workers involved in direct patient care.
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged under 6 months.

### **Other Influenza Vaccination Recommendations**

Other influenza vaccination recommendations are as follows:

- People identified in the priority groups are encouraged to contact their local health department for the influenza vaccine if their regular healthcare provider does not have the vaccine available.

- The intranasally administered, live influenza vaccine should be encouraged for healthy people 5-49 years of age who are not pregnant, including healthcare workers (except those who care for severely immunocompromised patients in special care units) and people who care for children less than 6 months of age.
- Certain children less than 9 years of age may require two doses of the influenza vaccine if they have not been vaccinated previously. All children at high risk for complications from influenza, including those 6-23 months of age, should be vaccinated with a first or second dose, depending on vaccination status. However, doses should not be held in reserve to ensure that two doses will be available. Instead, any available vaccine should be used to vaccinate persons in priority groups on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **Vaccinations of People in Nonpriority Groups**

People who are not included in one of the priority groups should be informed about the urgent influenza vaccine supply situation and asked to forego or defer vaccination.

### **Who Should Not Get the Influenza Vaccine**

People in the following groups should not get the influenza vaccine before contacting their physician:

- Those who have a severe allergy (e.g., an anaphylactic allergic reaction) to hens' eggs.
- Those who previously developed Guillain-Barre syndrome six weeks after getting an influenza vaccination.

### **For More Information**

For information about claims submission procedures, refer to the September 2004 *Update* (2004-71), titled "Wisconsin Medicaid Reimbursement of Influenza Vaccine for the 2004-2005 Season." For additional questions regarding the influenza vaccine, providers may contact the Wisconsin Division of Public Health Immunization Program at (608) 266-1339.

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/).

PHC 1250